

including very strong support for local law enforcement and broad community efforts. Those efforts and that support are clearly recognized and appreciated by law enforcement and municipal officials. In a community of seventeen thousand, such good works are very much noticed.

"In a smaller city such as this, everybody seems to know what everybody else is doing," says Edward Geers, Oswego's fire chief. "And if there's a need in one family, everybody helps out. I visit other places, but love coming back here," he adds. "Everybody here is interested in the city as a whole and the community as a whole. If somebody's in need, whatever it is, the community pulls together; and the Elks have always been a big part of that."

The Elks' appreciation of the people and organizations that hold the town together is shown regularly through public recognition. For the lodge's annual public safety recognition event, called Lincoln Day in Oswego, Geers develops a profile of the personnel who might deserve the lodge's Firefighter of the Year Award, and then he "lets the firefighters decide who they feel is worthy. And when the Elks recognize that person, it means a lot." Geers continues, "I think everyone realizes that even though an individual wins an award, it's not just that one individual who's being recognized. It reflects on the entire department. We stand as one, and that perception is very important for us."

Geers, an active Elk for twenty-three years, adds: "I'm proud to say I'm a member of the Oswego Elks, because of the wonderful things they've done in the community. Other organizations do little things, but the Elks are trendsetters, who make sure everything's done right."

Oswego's chief of police, Michael Dehms Jr., agrees that receiving the Oswego Lodge's public safety award is a distinct honor. "It's good to be recognized, but when you're recognized by an organization like the Oswego Elks, it means a lot." Dehms notes that the Elks also have made numerous important contributions directly to public safety. For example, in the 1980s, the Oswego Lodge purchased a working police canine for the department's canine unit. What's more, Dehms points out, every year during the community's biggest social event, called Harborfest, the Elks "supply meals for our officers and state police, for the officers who have to work through it and can't go home for dinner. Anything we've ever asked for, they've always helped us," he adds.

According to Dehms, the Elks "definitely set an example of community involvement." One of the Elks' programs, for example, honors the memory of a deceased police officer by maintaining an ongoing memorial fund in his name that provides college scholarships.

Mayor Randolph Bateman easily summarizes the Oswego Elks' exceptional volunteerism by saying that "the Elks' contribution to the community is great. They're involved in various activities, including youth activities. And last year, they hosted the New York Elks' bowling tournament, which brought significant income into the city."

Another example of the Oswego Elks' civic involvement that Mayor Bateman cites is the Youth Community Day that the lodge sponsors every year in May. Youth Community Day includes an Elks-sponsored luncheon for students and local government officials. At the luncheon, the mayor and various city department heads speak to the students, explaining some of the functions of city government, and give the students the opportunity to meet public officials directly. Such events, Bateman says, are extremely important in helping reinforce the natural

cohesiveness that already exists in a community like Oswego.

As the school district's Bill Foley sees it, a smaller community like Oswego brings out the best in people, and the Elks of Oswego help to encourage that. "We look like a sleepy little town on the lake," he says, "but what amazes me is the way this town always pulls together, whether during the ice storm of a few years ago, or during Harborfest. This is a caring community," he emphasizes. "It's almost like a community of the past. We joke about Oswego maybe being a few years behind other places, but we care about each other and pull for each other. And to have folks like the Elks be so involved, it's tremendous."•

TRIBUTE TO VESTAVIA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks today about Alabama's State champion and national finalist in the "We the People" competition. Vestavia Hills High School placed fourth in the national We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national finals, held in Washington, DC. This impressive competition, headed by the Center for Civic Education, engaged young people in the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

Members of this remarkable team from Vestavia Hills included Diana Chen, Colleen Cusick, William Desmond, Felipe Goncalves, Lauren Hammonds, Pei-Ann Lin, Tyler Martin, Robert Nuttall, Shannon O'Sheal, Thomas Oliver, Sean Sapp, Curry Stevenson, Andrew Swindle, Wesley Vaughn, Jay Watson, Ylia Wilson, Shin Xu, and Zaka Yazdi.

I would like to congratulate Amy Maddox, the teacher who led this fine team. Teachers shape the future, and I appreciate Ms. Maddox's investment in these students. As a former educator and the father of three children, I have a great admiration for educators, and I am grateful that educators like Ms. Maddox are making a difference.

I would also like to thank Janice Cowin, the executive director of the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education.

I applaud the efforts of students, teachers, and community leaders who made this accomplishment possible. Vestavia Hills High School is an exceptional school and has represented Alabama well. I encourage these students to continue pursuing a deep understanding of the Constitution and our Government. It is important that we raise up quality leaders that will serve our country in years to come. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4040) to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's

products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, and Mr. STEARNS as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 5:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 6022. An act to suspend the acquisition of petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6051. An act to amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond May 16, 2008.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6276. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-6277. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyproconazole; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8362-9) received on May 13, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6278. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Navy and has been assigned case number 07-06; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-6279. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the Department's decision to conduct a streamlined competition of aircraft maintenance functions performed by personnel of the Fleet Logistics Support Squadrons at Andrews Air Force Base, MD; to the Committee on Armed Services.